



Rockville Reports

FEBRUARY 2020 • VOL. 66 #2



• FIND MORE CITY NEWS AT WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV •



City Opposes I-270 Widening

The Mayor and Council continued efforts last month to oppose a state project to widen interstates 270 and 495 over the American Legion Bridge with toll lanes, as a state board approved the project.

The Board of Public Works, comprised of the governor, comptroller and state treasurer, approved the project on a 2-1 vote on Jan. 8, with Treasurer Nancy K. Kopp voting in opposition.

In a letter to the board on Jan. 6, the Mayor and Council said they “were stunned to learn from the press” late on Jan. 4 that the vote had been scheduled for Jan. 8 and that the plan had changed.

The approved plan calls for toll lanes between a widened Legion Bridge and Interstate 370 and defers widening the remainder of I-495.

“This plan is dramatically different from the previous plan and no one has had time to study the impacts these changes will have,” the letter said.

The city will be “the most critically affected municipality,” with the highway’s 12 lanes abutting homes, Julius West Middle School, two churches and senior

facilities, the letter said.

The Mayor and Council have actively engaged with the state about this proposed project, encouraging state officials not to take homes or breach sound-wall boundaries.

The Jan. 6 letter expressed their concern that the project would force Rockville to reconstruct city-owned bridges over I-270 at Wootton Parkway and Gude Drive. The Mayor and Council requested an analysis of the traffic that construction related to the widening will generate, and a discussion of long-term maintenance needs resulting from additional traffic.

The letter noted noise pollution from the existing highway and questioned why other options were not considered, telling the board, “Let’s put transit options first – not last.”

The Mayor and Council also questioned why state officials were not more transparent and rushed toward a vote, asking the board to remove the item from its agenda and work with the city.

To read the letter in full, visit RockvilleReports.com/city-opposes-i-270-widening. ✚

Enforcement and Education Are Focus of Strategy for Safer Streets

Rockville is continuing its push for safer city streets for all with renewed enforcement and education efforts.

The Rockville City Police Department began the new year by redeploying patrol officers to traffic patrol and focusing enforcement efforts on high-incident areas.

A map of bicycle and pedestrian crashes from 2017-2019, presented during the Dec. 16 Mayor and Council meeting, shows a concentration of incidents in Rockville Town Center, as well as near the Rockville and Twinbrook Metro stations. The map and staff report, as well as video of the Mayor and Council discussion can be found with the Dec. 16 meeting agenda listing at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Other ongoing education and enforcement efforts

include:

- Patrols directed to address community concerns.
- An educational and enforcement effort in Town Center that has distributed over 500 educational brochures and issued citations and warnings.
- Increased emphasis on bringing criminal charges, when appropriate, in pedestrian-involved crashes.
- Greater statistical analysis of pedestrian-involved crashes.
- Education through community outreach events and by using city communication tools, including the city’s website, Rockville 11 (channel 11 on county cable and the city’s YouTube channel), “Rockville Reports” in print and online, printed materials and social media.

continued on pg. 8...



Sign On for Sidewalks

City’s Prioritization Policy Allows Residents to Petition for New Paths

Know a neighborhood that could use a sidewalk?

The city created a Sidewalk Prioritization Policy to address missing sidewalks in Rockville and the costs associated with constructing them. The policy helps determine if, and in what order, the city constructs sidewalks.

A missing sidewalk is any existing or potential pathway that, were it hard surfaced, would be used by pedestrians in their routine educational, recreational, business, shopping, working, civic and social pursuits. Sidewalks are along streets and are typically built within city rights of way.

Rockville residents may circulate a petition to have new sidewalks constructed. Once proposed, prioritizing is based on:

- A utility score, which assesses a proposed sidewalk’s con-

nectivity to existing sidewalks and its proximity to schools, bus stops, Metrorail stations, recreational centers and other nearby pedestrian generators.

- A traffic conditions score, which assesses a proposed sidewalk’s connection to a street with higher speed limits.
- Other considerations, such as the availability of city right of way, public support for construction of the proposed sidewalk, and potential environmental impacts.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/sidewalks to learn more about the policy, view a map of sidewalks prioritized for construction and find petition forms.

Before circulating a petition for a new sidewalk, residents should call the city’s Traffic and Transportation Division, at 240-314-8500, to discuss the proposed sidewalk. ✚

City Hall and Some City Facilities to Close for Presidents Day

City Hall will be closed and recycling and trash will not be collected on Monday, Feb. 17, in observance of Presidents Day. Several city facilities will operate on their usual schedule.

Recycling and trash collection will not be collected on Presidents Day. Collections will occur one day later throughout the week. For more information, call 240-314-8568 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash.

On Monday, Feb. 17:

- The Rockville Senior Center will be closed.
 - Glenview Mansion will be closed.
 - Croydon Creek Nature Center and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre box office are always closed Mondays. Theater tickets are always available at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre.
 - Lincoln Park, Twinbrook and Thomas Farm community centers and the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will be open regular hours. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter for swim and fitness center lap and program schedules.
- Parking will be free at city-owned meters.

For more information, call 240-314-5000 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov. ✚

Rockville to Celebrate Lunar New Year

Celebrate Rockville’s Asian cultures with performances, crafts and cultural displays at the city’s Lunar New Year celebration.

The annual celebration will be held from 1-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, at Rockville High School. Multicultural performances, including dancers, singers, drummers, a pianist and the traditional lion dance will be from 1:30-2:45 p.m. There will be interactive displays and Asian snacks after the performances. The city is organizing the celebration in partnership with Rockville’s Asian Pacific American Task Force. The cel-

ebration will mark the year 4718, the Year of the Rat on the Chinese Zodiac calendar.

Rockville High School, at 2100 Baltimore Road, is accessible via Ride On Bus 45.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear.

Can’t make it to the Feb. 1 celebration? The Rockville Lantern Festival, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Drive, will feature cultural performances and displays, food, and interactive crafts. *See the calendar on page 7 for details.* ✚

In This Issue...

- 2** **Census 2020: Confidential, Safe and Secure.**
- 4** **Go Behind the Badge with Community Police Academies.**
- 5** **Save Money and Energy with Tax-free Weekend.**
- 6** **Community Centers Show Love for Valentine’s Day.**

MAYOR & COUNCIL
111 Maryland Ave.
Rockville, Maryland
20850-2364

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SUBURBAN, MD.
PERMIT NO. 63

ECR WSS
LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER



City's Financial Assistance Program Can Help in an Emergency

Need financial help? Facing eviction? Utilities about to be shut off? Need help paying for prescription medication?

Emergency financial assistance is available to eligible Rockville residents facing a financial crisis through the Rockville Emergency Assistance Program.

Depending on eligibility, REAP assistance may be available for funeral expenses and medical expenses. Referrals for emergency food, clothing, financial/employment counseling and other assistance are also provided.

For more information on REAP, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/reap.

County to Provide Free Tax Preparation Appointments through VITA

Montgomery County is hosting free tax preparation sessions throughout tax season for low- to moderate-income families that earned \$56,000 or less in 2019.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, which is run by the Montgomery County Community Action Agency, provides IRS-certified volunteers from nonprofit and public agencies who can help low- to moderate-income families maximize their tax refunds and credits, including the Earned-Income Tax Credit, and e-file their federal and state tax forms.

Appointments in Rockville are available from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. on Wednesdays, until April 15, at the Community Action Agency, 1401 Rockville Pike, Suite 320. The program is for Montgomery County residents only.

Walk-in consultations are available from 2-6 p.m. Thursdays, from Feb. 6-April 9, at Aspen Hill Library, 4407 Aspen Hill Road.

Schedule an appointment by calling 240-777-1123. (TTY users, call 711) or at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cashback.

To find more information, including a list of additional locations throughout Montgomery County, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/freetaxhelp or email VITA@montgomerycountymd.gov.



Jaden Walcott, a Ritchie Park Elementary School student, was Rockville's Mayor for a Day in 2019.

Students Have a Chance to be Mayor for a Day in May

Mayor Newton to Visit Rockville Fourth Graders

Rockville fourth graders once again have a chance to serve as the city's Mayor for a Day this spring by taking part in the statewide "If I Were Mayor" essay contest.

The theme of this year's contest, organized by the Maryland Municipal League and the Maryland Mayors Association, is "Re-imagine Tomorrow." Students are asked to write an essay, no longer than 275 words, that would describe how, if they were mayor, they would reimagine their community and describe how they'd make tomorrow better.

One winning essay will be selected from each of MML's 11 regional districts throughout the state. Winners will receive \$100 cash and a governor's citation and will be recognized during an awards ceremony in Annapolis. Essays must be received by mail by Friday, March 27.

The Mayor and Council consider the contest to be a wonderful exercise in government studies and encourage fourth graders attending schools in Rockville to participate.

Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton welcomes the opportunity to speak with students about the essay contest, municipal government and what it is like to be mayor of Rockville. Teachers or school administrators may email jmoble@rockvillemd.gov to arrange for the mayor to visit their school, though a mayoral visit is not required for students to participate.

In addition to the winners chosen by MML and MMA, the mayor will select a student attending school in Rockville to serve as the city's Mayor for a Day in May.

Learn more by visiting www.mdmunicipal.org and selecting "Mayor's Essay Contest" under "Engagement," or call the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations office at 240-314-8280.

The Rockville Cultural Arts Commission is inviting groups from Rockville's arts community to a summit this March to discuss how to create a more vibrant, culturally diverse, financially sustainable, and economically beneficial arts and culture scene in Rockville.

Creatives Summit Aims to Bring Together City's Arts Community

The Rockville Cultural Arts Commission is inviting groups from Rockville's arts community to a summit this March to discuss how to create a more vibrant, culturally diverse, financially sustainable, and economically beneficial arts and culture scene in Rockville.

The Rockville Creatives Summit will be held from 1-5 p.m. Sunday, March 22 in the

Buchanan Room of VisArts, 155 Gibbs St.

The summit will cover topics including ideas for marketing and building a diverse audience, as well as the future of arts and culture in the city.

To register to attend, visit www.visitrockville.org and click "Rockville Creatives Summit March 2020," or email rockvillecac@gmail.com.

Mayor and Council Approve Charter Review Commission

The Mayor and Council voted unanimously Jan. 13 to establish a commission to review the city's charter.

The charter is a legal document similar to a constitution. It establishes the city's corporate limits and outlines how the city is organized and conducts business, such as holding elections, levying taxes, adopting ordinances and providing services.

The commission will be comprised of up to 11 city residents. Each member of the Mayor and Council may choose one member. In addition, the mayor will nominate a commission chair, to be approved by the council. The Mayor and Council together will select and approve five additional members. The chair of the city's Board of Supervisors of Elections will serve as a nonvoting ex officio representative to the

commission.

The Mayor and Council will hold at least one public hearing on the scope of the commission's work, at a date to be determined.

The Mayor and Council last appointed a Charter Review Commission in 2012. That commission made recommendations about the length of elected terms of the Mayor and Council, the number of members on the council, and the schedule by which Mayor and Council elections are held. The commission also identified several ways to enhance voting, including early voting and voting by mail.

Find video of the Mayor and Council's discussion, and more information about the charter review process, with the Jan. 13 Mayor and Council agenda at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Census 2020: Confidential, Safe and Secure

The federal government will conduct the 2020 Census this year and the City of Rockville wants community members to help meet the goal of counting everyone once – and only once – in the right place.

Participating in the census impacts Rockville. Compiled every 10 years, census data is used by the government to define representative boundaries for congressional districts, state legislative districts and voting precincts, and for enforcing voting rights and civil rights legislation. It also determines how billions of dollars in federal funding are distributed for things like health care, senior centers, jobs, roads, schools and businesses.

Census responses are safe and secure. The Census Bureau is required by law to protect any personal information it collects and keep it strictly confidential. Information cannot be shared and cannot be used by law enforcement, or to determine an individual's eligibility for government benefits. It cannot

be used against you in any way – not by the FBI, CIA, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or any court. Census workers take a lifetime oath to protect personal information, with a penalty of up to \$250,000 and/or up to five years in prison for any violation of this oath.

All Rockville community members are encouraged to complete the census questionnaire by responding online, by phone or by mail. All data submitted online is encrypted to prevent hacking and protect privacy, using the highest and most recent standards for protecting personal information from cyber-threats. It is safe to provide answers and know that they will only be used to paint a statistical portrait of our nation and community.

For more about the census's data protection and privacy program, visit www.census.gov/privacy.

For more information about the census in Montgomery County, visit montgomerycountymd.gov/census.



POST-ELECTION FORUM Saturday, Feb. 8 10 a.m.-noon

The Board of Supervisors of Elections takes the first steps in planning for the 2023 Mayor and Council election.

Mayor and Council chambers at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.

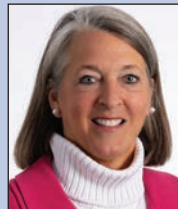
For more information, or to RSVP to attend, contact Judy Penny at jpenny@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8288.



MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ... Now on Rockville 11's YouTube channel, (www.youtube.com/cityofrockville): Revisit the celebration and performances of Martin Luther King Jr. Day; see all the fun your kid can have with the Teens on the Go program; meet Rockville's new sister city, Yilan, Taiwan; and be introduced to Cricket, the Eastern screech owl, with Croydon Creek Nature Center's Meet the Animals.

Mayor & Council

mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov



Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton
240-314-8291
bnewton@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Monique Ashton
240-314-8295
mashton@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg
240-314-8293
bfeinberg@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember David Myles
240-314-8294
dmyles@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Mark Pierzchala
240-314-8292
mpierzchala@rockvillemd.gov

Meetings: Mondays, Feb. 3 and 24 at 7 p.m. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Drop-in sessions are held monthly at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor and Council office. No appointment necessary. Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton is joined by Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg on Feb. 3.

Get Involved with the City

Stay informed of the business before city leaders and share your thoughts:

- **Follow the action in person:** Meetings are at 7 p.m. on most Mondays, at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., or follow from home on channel 11.
- **Stop by a drop-in session:** The mayor and one councilmember meet with community members one Monday each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- **Speak at Community Forum** (up to three minutes): Community Forum is held during each Mayor and Council meeting. Priority is given to speakers who have signed up in advance by calling 240-314-8280 by 4 p.m. on the day of the meeting, and to those who are speaking on an agenda item.
- **Send an email** to mayor council@rockvillemd.gov.
- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to cityclerk@ (continued in right column...)

City Manager to Present Proposed Budget to Mayor and Council

Budget Available Online by Feb. 14; Offer Ideas Online and at Hearings

City Manager Rob DiSpirito will present his proposed Fiscal Year 2021 city budget this month.

The proposed budget, for the fiscal year that begins July 1, will be posted at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget by Friday, Feb. 14. DiSpirito is scheduled to present the proposed budget during the Mayor and Council meeting on Monday, Feb. 24. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.

The Mayor and Council will hold budget hearings and work sessions on Monday, March 2 and Monday, March 23. A work session is also scheduled for Monday, April 20, with budget adoption scheduled for Monday, May 4.

Find agenda materials and video of the budget hearings, presentation and the Mayor and Council's Jan. 27 discussion about their budget priorities at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/ budget to use the city's online survey to choose your budget

priorities and offer suggestions. Staff will compile the online submissions and periodically submit them for the Mayor and Council's review and consideration.

Rockville's adopted operating budget for the current fiscal year totals \$138.9 million.

For more information, call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. ✚

OFFER IDEAS

- At www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.
- At public hearings on March 2 and March 23.

WATCH IT

The Feb. 24 proposed budget presentation and the public hearings will be:

- Carried live on channel 11 on county cable systems.
- Live streaming at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11.
- Available a day after each meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand.

Upcoming Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Calendar

FEB. 24	Presentation of FY 2021 proposed budget.
MARCH 2	Public hearing and work session.
MARCH 23	Public hearing and work session.
APRIL 17	Close of public record.
APRIL 20	Work session.
MAY 4	Adoption of the FY 2021 Budget.
JULY 1	Start of FY 2021.

New Ethics Rules Add Whistleblower Protection, Expand Disclosure Requirements

Rockville's city code now includes a whistleblower protection provision, new requirements for certain city employees to file financial disclosure statements and clarifies the city Ethics Commission's role in reviewing the statements, after the Mayor and Council unanimously adopted changes to the city's public ethics ordinance on Jan. 6.

The addition of the whistleblower provision ensures that employees and officials can report ethical violations and participate in investigations without fear of retaliation.

Additional changes require the city manager, city clerk, city attorney and department heads to file financial disclosure statements. That includes the directors of planning, finance, human resources, information technology, public works, recreation and parks, communications, and procurement, as well as the chief of police. The deputy city manager, deputy city clerk, deputy city attorney, deputy finance director, and management and budget director are also now required to file statements.

continued on pg. 8...

Have an Urge to Help? Rockville Wants You to Volunteer

Rockville is always on the hunt for volunteers — and if you have a few extra hours to spare each month, you can make a huge difference in your community, whether by mentoring a kid, shoveling snow for a senior, cleaning a stream or serving on the city's boards and commissions.

What kind of difference do volunteers make in the city? From July to December 2019, 1,264 volunteers donated more than 13,000 hours to activities in Rockville — an investment of time worth an estimated \$260,020.

And what could volunteering do for you? You could learn a new skill, gain work experience that looks good on your résumé, meet new people and network — or just feel good that you made a difference!

If a longer-term volunteer commitment is not manageable, check out one-time opportunities to volunteer. Consider supporting a single special event like the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration, wrapping gifts for families in need at the annual Holiday Drive toy shop, or helping at a community center celebration, like the Family Valentine's Dance (see the article on page 6).

For volunteers who can commit to a longer-term role, service on one of the city's boards and commissions allows members of the community to partner with city staff to shape Rockville's future by sharing expertise and advising the Mayor and Council.

Boards and commissions address a wide range of relevant topics, from the environment to human services to city elections. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/98/Boards-Commissions to see vacancies and learn more about the application process.

The city's volunteer program also allows participants to adopt a stream, teach children to swim, assist in numerous ways with the Recreation and Parks Department, remove invasive weeds, mentor youth and (for elementary or middle school students) better the environment by marking storm drains.

To find opportunities to volunteer and an application form, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer. ✚

(continued from left column...)

rockvillemd.gov or by mail to the City Clerk's Office, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

- **Volunteer** to be on a board or commission. Learn more below and find other ways to give of your time and talents at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.

Boards and Commissions

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may write to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280, or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at www.rockvillemd.gov/boards-commissions.

Note: Meetings are held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., unless otherwise noted.

- **Feb. 5** Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee 7 p.m.
- **Feb. 8** Board of Supervisors of Elections Post-election Forum 10 a.m.
- **Feb. 12, 26** Planning Commission 7 p.m.*
- **Feb. 13** Board of Appeals 7 p.m.
- **Feb. 13** Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee 7 p.m.
- **Feb. 20** Senior Citizens Commission 10 a.m. Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive.

*Televised on Rockville 11.

Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Board of Supervisors of Elections (1)
- Cultural Arts Commission (1)
- Environment Commission (3)
- Landlord-Tenant Affairs Commission (2)
- Retirement Board (1)
- Rockville Sister Cities Corporation (1)
- Human Rights Commission (2)
- Senior Citizens Commission (2)
- Traffic and Transportation (1)
- Human Services Advisory Commission (2)
- Historic District Commission (3 reg., 1 alt.)

For more, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions or call 240-314-8280.



LEARN MORE ON ROCKVILLE 11
www.youtube.com/cityofrockville

► SPEAK UP ◀

Report potential fraud, waste and abuse related to City of Rockville government services and employees.

Call 1-866-921-6714

Email rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca
Visit www.integritycounts.ca/org/rockvillemd
For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse.



STAY INFORMED: The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil. Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting.

Save Some Green and Create a Place for Wildlife to Be Seen

The city's RainScapes Rebates program offers single-family homeowners and nonprofits, including religious institutions, private schools and homeowners associations, up to \$2,500 in rebates for landscaping that is designed to green your backyard and reduce pollution.

The program offers rebates for planting trees and conservation landscaping, installing rain barrels, or removing pavement and installing permeable pavers — actions that can reduce flooding, decrease pollution in local streams, and support wildlife. To learn more, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/rainscapes or contact rainscapes@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8877.

Looking to get even closer to nature? Homeowners, businesses, schools, universities, places of worship, parks, civic and community organizations, and others can create wildlife-friendly landscapes and earn National Wildlife Federation certification.

Certified wildlife habitats must provide food, water, cover and places for wildlife to raise young. These certified habitats help to create corridors for wildlife to thrive throughout the community. Like RainScapes Rebates, the program encourages gardening in an environmentally friendly way, planting native species of plants and replacing lawns with trees, shrubs and other plants.

To find resources and learn more about becoming certified, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/wildlifehabitat.

Peerless Presents Stories of Slavery and Flights to Freedom

Peerless Rockville marks Black History Month with two presentations this month examining slavery and the fight for freedom.

Author Jenny Masur presents stories from her new book of unsung heroes of the Underground Railroad who lived and worked around Washington, D.C., at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23 at the historic Red Brick Courthouse, 29 Courthouse Square, in Rockville Town Center.

Masur, formerly the National Capitol Region Manager for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, will present stories of the men and women, black and white, operatives and freedom seekers, who each demonstrated courage, resourcefulness and initiative on their flights to freedom on the Underground Railroad in Rockville and Montgomery County.

Admission is free. For tickets and more information, visit Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation, Ltd. on Facebook or bit.ly/PeerlessUGRRHeroes.

Richard Bell, an associate professor of history at the University of Maryland, College Park, will present the story from his book "Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped Into Slavery and Their Astonishing Odyssey Home," from 2-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29 at Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave. in Rockville Town Square. Bell will discuss how the outlawing of the transatlantic slave trade in the early 1800s created a criminal network of human traffickers and slave traders who abducted thousands of free African-Americans living in northern states and sold them into slavery. He will describe the true story of five young, free black boys who — lured onto a ship with the promise of food and pay, then smuggled from Philadelphia to the deep South — courageously resisted and were able to escape, eventually initiating a manhunt to bring their captors to justice.

Cosponsored by Friends of the Library, Rockville Memorial Chapter. Admission is free. For tickets and more information, visit Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation, Ltd. on Facebook or bit.ly/PeerlessStolen.

"Heroes of the Underground Railroad Around Washington, D.C." and "Stolen: The
continued on pg. 8...

Rocket-building, Backyard Wildlife and Botball at Science Day

The 31st annual Rockville Science Day offers a chance to experience science hands-on, with science and technology-related exhibits, activities, games and demos from over 90 local organizations and businesses.

Activities and exhibits include building and launching rockets, telescopes, robots, backyard wildlife,

ship models, microscopes, snakes, stream science, a pigeon release, Civil War medical practice, coding challenges, math puzzles, chemistry in action (including flames, explosions

and other reactions), electric vehicle demos, quadcopters, archaeology mini-digs, 3-D printing and brain games.

Learn

more and register to exhibit at rockvillesciencecenter.org/rockville-science-day/.

Can't Wait for Science Day?

The Rockville Science Center sponsors a free Science Tuesday on the second Tuesday of the month, a Science Café on the third Tuesday of the month and now has a storefront center at 36C Maryland Ave., in Rockville Town Square (see the article on page 8).

The center also hosts

hands-on activities at the Makerspace in the Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave., in Rockville Town Square. Activities include programming, electronics, amateur radio license training and other high-tech projects. Find the Makerspace schedule at www.meetup.com/Rockville-RSC-Makerspace.

Learn more about these and other upcoming events at rockvillesciencecenter.org/events/list.

RSC is a nonprofit supported by the generous donations of its members and sponsors, including the City of Rockville. Visit rockvillesciencecenter.org/support to learn more. ✚

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW IF YOU GO

WHAT: Rockville Science Day

WHEN: Sunday, April 19, noon to 5 p.m.

WHERE: Montgomery College-Rockville, 51 Mannakee St.

COST: FREE

Community Police Academies Offer Hands-on Experience

Community members can learn what it takes to be a police officer through the Rockville Community Police Academy or a special course aimed at 60-plus residents.

Registration is now open for the Rockville City Police Department's free, eight-week Rockville Community Police Academy. Classes will meet 7-9 p.m. Thursdays, March 26-May 14 in the conservatory of Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive. Participants 18 and older will learn about all aspects of the department, receive hands-on training and earn a graduation certificate

upon course completion. For more information and registration, email Cpl. Kevin McBride at kmcbride@rockvillemd.gov.

RCPD is also offering a free course highlighting safety for the 60-plus population and exploring code enforcement, the K-9 unit and forensic science. Participants will also tour the police station. Classes meet from 10:30 a.m.-noon on Wednesdays, April 1-May 6, in the Azalea Room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. Register for course #12987 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration. ✚

Meet a Rockville Employee:



Carl Young

Carl Young, Rockville's new fire marshal, has been on the job since August. We asked him to answer a few questions to introduce him to the community.

What does the fire marshal do?

I direct the work of the fire plans examiner, fire protection engineer and fire inspectors to maintain a safe environment for residents, workers and visitors within the City of Rockville. I provide technical assistance, guidance and training to staff regarding interpretation of the fire and life safety code, local ordinances, and policies and procedures. I coordinate with other divisions and departments to encourage teamwork and excellent customer service.

As fire marshal, I review complex construction and fire protection plans with staff, ensuring systems meet the fire code. I also ensure fire department access and water supply requirements are met.

I confer with residents, building owners, property managers, developers and

other design professionals to address any concerns or complaints that may arise.

What did I do before becoming the city's fire marshal?

I was the senior fire inspector for the City of Rockville before becoming the fire marshal. Prior to joining the city in 2015, I was employed with Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service for 25 ½ years. While employed with MCFRS, I devoted 17 years in a fire station as a fire fighter/EMT. I was promoted to the rank of master fire fighter in 2008 and spent the last 8 ½ years of my career in the fire marshal's office as a battalion fire inspector.

Other things to know about me:

My goal is to lead the City of Rockville Fire Marshal's Office to be recognized as the best in the region in the areas of fire plan review and fire inspections for new and existing structures, while delivering exemplary customer service.



THE MUSIC OF MLK DAY ... Denise Henderson and The Fellas (top) and vocal group HALO (right) performed as part of the city's 48th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration on Jan. 20. Find complete coverage of the celebration on Rockville 11 (channel 11 on county cable) at 10 a.m. each day and again at 2 and 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, or on the city's YouTube channel at https://youtu.be/lqBFB6t7ya_Y.



BE THE FIRST IN THE KNOW EACH WEEK WITH THE "ROCKVILLE REPORTS" NEWSLETTER ... Did you know you can get the latest "Rockville Reports" news directly each week, sent to your email inbox at noon every Sunday? That's right. Visit RockvilleReports.com/rockville-reports-newsletter to sign up!

50th Anniversary Offers Opportunities to Make Every Day Earth Day

We're approaching the golden anniversary of Earth Day. On April 22, the world will celebrate 50 years since the first Earth Day in 1970 ushered in the modern environmental movement.

But the planet and our environment need our help more than just one day a year. Join the



Make Every Day Earth Day
CITY OF ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

City of Rockville as we celebrate throughout the year with the Make Every Day Earth Day campaign.

Watch for the Earth Day 50 image that accompanies this article in "Rockville Reports," online and on materials at community centers as we highlight special events, classes, volunteer opportunities and actions you can take to reduce pollution

and protect our water, air, forests and wildlife.

From nature classes, festivals and giveaways to stream cleanups, invasive species pulls and other volunteer opportunities, Rockville has over 50 ways for you to celebrate, get involved and protect Rockville's environment this

year and beyond. Be sure to visit www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters and select "Environment and Sustainability" to sign up for the city's quarterly email newsletter on Earth Day happenings, environmental news and tips. We'll even share ways you can save money while doing your part to help us make every day Earth Day. ❄️

A Green Game Plan to Fight the White Stuff

Environmentally Friendly Snow- and Ice-Removal Tips

Follow these tips to keep your driveway and sidewalks ice-free this winter, while minimizing the environmental impact:

Shovel Early, Shovel Often

Removing fresh snow before it has a chance to harden into ice is the best way to keep your pavement clear. Deicers work best on thin layers of snow or ice that need to be melted, so shovel first, break up any ice patches you can and then add the salt.

Apply Salt Sparingly

Scatter the deicer and leave space between the grains. A 12-ounce coffee mug full of salt is enough to treat a 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares. Using more than the recommended amount of salt won't speed up melting. And when temperatures drop below 15 degrees, skip it altogether, because salt won't work at all.

Buy Early and Check Labels

Buy your deicing product before the big storm, so you don't end up staring at

empty shelves in the stores. Check the label before you buy. A deicer with calcium magnesium, or CMA, is the most ecofriendly deicer. Although slightly more expensive, calcium chloride (CaCl₂) requires less salt, works at lower temperatures and does not contain cyanide, unlike sodium chloride (NaCl, rock salt), which does. Urea is sometimes promoted as "lawn-friendly," as excess urea will act as a fertilizer. However, the application rate for urea is far greater than your lawn would require, and most of the excess urea will only end up "fertilizing" the stream.

Avoid Kitty Litter and Ashes

While these products are environmentally friendly, they are only marginally effective at adding traction, and don't melt ice. If you need traction, mixing in a small amount of sand and using even less salt is a better option.

Learn more at bit.ly/saltwise. ❄️

Rockville Seeks Environmentalists to Be Recognized During Earth Month

Feb. 21 is Deadline for Nominations for Environmental Awards

The City of Rockville's Environmental Excellence Awards recognize individuals and organizations that contribute to Rockville's environmental health and sustainability.

Nominations are being accepted in the following categories through 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21 for awards to be presented during Earth Month in April:

- Outstanding Individual Environmental Stewardship.
 - Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Practices.
 - Outstanding Achievement in Green Building Technology/Design.
 - Outstanding Environmental Education and Academic Achievement.
- Eligible individuals must

live, work or study within the city. Eligible organizations must have an office in Rockville or must be able to demonstrate significant operations within the city limits. Building projects considered as part of a nomination must be within the city.

The awards are presented to an individual or organization by the Mayor and Council. Nominations and supplemental materials are received by the Environment Commission, which review the materials and recommend awards to the Mayor and Council.

For more information about the award categories and guidelines, application forms and eligibility, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/environment/awards, email environment@rockvillemd.gov, or call 240-314-8870. ❄️

Save Dollars, and Energy, with Tax-free Presidents Day Weekend

Buy Energy-saving Products Feb. 15-17 or Apply for Energy Rebates

Homeowners thinking about upgrading an appliance, replacing a water heater, or even changing a light bulb, can do so tax free on Presidents Day weekend.

On Feb. 15-17, purchases of the following energy-efficient Energy Star products are free from Maryland's 6% sales tax:

- Air conditioners.
- Washers and dryers.
- Furnaces.
- Heat pumps.
- Boilers.
- Solar water heaters (tax exempt at all times).
- Standard-size refrigerators.
- Dehumidifiers.
- Programmable thermostats.
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Learn more about Energy Star products at www.energystar.gov. Learn more about the tax-free weekend by visiting www.rockvillemd.gov.

marylandtaxes.com and searching "Shop Maryland Energy."

In addition, Pepco offers customers rebates on Energy Star appliances. Learn more at homeenergy.savings.pepco.com/appliance-rebate-program.

Washington Gas also offers residential and commercial rebates, including, for residential customers, rebates on furnaces, gas clothes dryers and standard or tankless water heaters. Learn more at washingtongas.com/rebates.

Energy assistance may be available for customers having trouble paying their utility bills. Visit bit.ly/utilityassistance.

Find more energy-saving tips at www.washingtongas.com/safety-education/education/winter-preparedness. ❄️



TRUSTWORTHY, EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT ... Rockville offers a telephone hotline and website for community members to report potential fraud, waste and abuse related to city government services and employees. Examples include violations of rules or regulations, gross waste of funds or theft of city resources. Community members may call 866-921-6714 or submit reports via email at rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca or by filing an online report at www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse.

Rockville Demonstrates a Record of Environmental Stewardship

Rockville leadership and the community have worked hard to become leaders in environmental stewardship. Here are some of our accomplishments:

- Rockville was named the 2018 Sustainability Champion for amassing the highest points of all cities in the Maryland Sustainable Communities Certification program. Learn more at RockvilleReports.com/sustainable-rockville.
- The city now has 10 times as many green buildings and 50 times as many solar panel installations as it did a decade ago.
- The city purchases wind renewable energy certificates to offset 100% of the electricity used by our municipal operations.
- The city is working with Pepco to install public electric-vehicle charging stations at Thomas Farm Community Center.

But there's always plenty more to do! Sign up to receive the city's Environment and Sustainability quarterly email newsletter in your inbox. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters and select "Environment and Sustainability."

Get Free Ecofriendly Lightbulbs Throughout FeBREWary

FeBREWary, a monthlong celebration of Maryland craft beer, also offers an opportunity to lower your utility bills – saving you money for more beer!

Visit one of these Brews and Bulbs events and swap old incandescent and compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs for up to four new LEDs:

- Wednesday, Feb. 5 from 5-7 p.m. at Saints Row Brewing, 1211-1213 Taft St.
- Friday, Feb. 7 from 5-7 p.m. at 7 Locks Brewing, 12227 Wilkins Ave.
- Friday, Feb. 28 from 5-7 p.m. at True Respite Brewing Company, 7301 Calhoun Place #600, Derwood.

On average, LEDs consume 80% less energy than incandescent light bulbs, saving energy and saving you money. LEDs are also safer for the environment. CFL bulbs that are thrown away often break, releasing mercury into the environment.

When CFL bulbs are recycled, their components can be repurposed or reused, avoiding potential hazards or damage to the environment. Unbroken CFL bulbs can be recycled for free by bringing them to the county's Shady Grove Transfer Station, 16101 Frederick Road, Derwood, or to most major home improvement stores, like Lowe's, Home Depot or Ace Hardware.

Say 'Yes, Please!' for Free Trees

The City of Rockville will mark the 50th anniversary of Earth Day by giving away free trees.

The Rockville Tree Giveaway will be from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, March 28 at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. Rockville residents, including homeowners, homeowners associations and nonprofits will be able to choose up to two free trees, from among a selection of large shade trees and small flowering trees.

Trees will be available on a first come, first served basis. Limit two trees per household. Supplies are limited, and species preferences are not guaranteed. Rockville residents only.

Questions? Contact environment@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8877.

Connect with us on Social Media.



Glenview Gallery to Exhibit Rockville Student Juried Art Show

Meet the artists of works on display at the Rockville Student Juried Art Show from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2 at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.

The exhibition, which will be held Feb. 2-21, will display artwork of varied media by students from grades 6-12.

Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday. The gallery is closed on official holidays.

The Glenview Mansion Art Gallery at the Rockville Civic Center is located at 603 Edmonston Drive.



Save the Date for Hometown Holidays

The Hometown Holidays Music Fest returns to Rockville Town Center this Memorial Day weekend. The 32nd annual free festival will feature four stages of entertainment, the Taste of Rockville and activities for kids, from noon-8 p.m. Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24.

The city's 76th annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade will take place from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, May 25, in Town Center. Applications to participate in the parade will be available beginning Monday, Feb. 3 at www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH.

The city is seeking speakers for the Memorial Day ceremony. Rockville and Montgomery County residents who have retired from, or currently serve in, the United States military are eligible to take part in the ceremony. Volunteer speakers must be comfortable speaking in public and must prepare a five- to seven-minute speech about their experiences in the armed forces, including what it means to serve and to honor those who have served.

Contact Amanda Knox at aknox@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8604 to participate or learn more.

Find more details, as they are announced, at www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH and "City of Rockville Hometown Holidays" on Facebook.

Rockville offers a variety of classes and programs each season.

Sign up at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration. Enter the course number listed on the calendar on page 7 to see more details and register.

International Night 2020

Friday, March 20, 6-8 p.m.

F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Social Hall

Looking for Performers!

Are you interested in showcasing your skills, and celebrating and sharing your cultural talent? We'd love to have you perform at this year's City of Rockville International Night!

If interested, please email yyeboah@rockvillemd.gov by March 6.



#worldrockville

A Play, an Operetta and a Jazz Concert: February at the F. Scott

Racially relevant theater, an unconventional experience, jazz and a classic operetta will feature this month at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

"A Raisin in the Sun," presented by the Rockville Little Theatre. Performances at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2.

Rockville Little Theatre will present the racially relevant classic, "A Raisin in the Sun," this month at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

Set in Chicago's South Side in the 1950s, the play depicts the dreams and ambitions of the Younger family as they await and receive a life-altering insurance check.

Faced with daily tensions, prejudices and a harsh reality, the family struggles to maintain dignity amid the chaos. Written by Lorraine Hansberry and directed by Kevin Sockwell.

Tickets cost \$22; \$20 for seniors (62 and older) and students.

"Joshua Sommerville: Eccentric but Necessary," presented by Unique Sounds of Love LLC. 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8.

An interactive, unconventional and once-in-a-lifetime experience that advocates imperfections, spirituality and eccentricity.

Tickets cost \$35.

"Swinging Sunday," presented by the Rockville Concert Band. 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9.

The annual concert, filled with jazz favorites, which will be joined by Rockville Swing Band. No tickets are required, but a donation of \$5 is suggested.

"The Pirates of Penzance," presented by the Victorian Lyric Opera Company. Performances at 8 p.m. Feb. 21, 22, 28, 29; and at 2 p.m. Feb. 23 and March 1.

Gilbert and Sullivan's beloved comic opera tells the story of Frederic, a boy mistakenly apprenticed to a softhearted band of pirates. Features many of Gilbert and Sullivan's wittiest and most engaging tunes, including the immortal "I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major-General" and "Poor Wandring One." Directed by Amy Sullivan; music directed by Joseph Sorge.

Tickets cost \$28; \$24 for seniors 65 and older; and \$20 for students.

For tickets or more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre, call the box office at 240-314-8690, or email theatre@rockvillemd.gov. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre is located at 603 Edmonston Drive. ✚

Show Your Love for Valentine's Day Community Centers to Celebrate the Hearts of Each Community

Little hearts are filled with lots of love, and each of Rockville's community centers are inviting those little hearts to a Valentine's celebration to share that love in their communities.

Kids ages 2-6 will enjoy a morning exploring different hands-on stations, such as cookie and card decorating, while enjoying other activities. A snack will be provided. Adult assistance and preregistration are required. The cost for each event is \$12 for residents and \$15 for non-residents. Sign up with the course number at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

The Valentine's celebrations will be held from 10-11:30 a.m. on the following days:

- **Monday, Feb. 10:** Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway.

Register with course #12106.

- **Tuesday, Feb. 11:** Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Drive. Register with course #12107.

- **Wednesday, Feb. 12:** Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Ave. Register with course #12104.

In addition, Twinbrook Community Recreation Center will hold its annual **Heart-to-Heart Family Valentine's Dance** from 7-9 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 7.

Family and friends will spend time together making Valentine's crafts, playing carnival games and dancing as a DJ spins musical favorites. Refreshments will be sold by Meadow Hall Elementary PTA. The cost is \$4 per person at the door; no preregistration is required. ✚

Hearing, Heart and Prostate Health at the Senior Center

Learn to interact better with people with dementia and learn about hearing-loss options, heart health and the prostate this February at the Rockville Senior Center.

Register at the senior center's information desk by calling 240-314-8800, or with the course number at www.rockvillemd.gov/ registration.

Dementia-friendly Initiative

Community members can often feel awkward when communicating with someone living with dementia, and may experience unnecessary discomfort when running errands, dining out and attending community events. With this free training, from 1-2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, gain new skills and resources to effectively continue work and other activities while helping those with dementia. Conducted by Nancy Epstein, of JK House of Grace, a qualified Dementia Friends community educator and part of Montgomery County's Dementia Friendly Initiative. Register with course #11524.

Hearing Loss

In a free session, from 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, Lisa Yuan and Christy Gavitt will share their personal experiences with hearing loss, and the strategies and tools, including assistive devices, that help them remain engaged and productive. Both presenters are Network of Community Assistive Technology Trainers — volunteers who go out in the community to educate people about hearing-loss resources and tools to enhance the ability to understand speech in different

settings. Yuan works at the National Institutes of Health Communications and wears a cochlear implant and hearing aid; Gavitt is a global health consultant and wears hearing aids. Register with course #11522.

Heart Health

A basic overview of how to prevent and manage symptoms and/or conditions related to heart health through diet, exercise and lifestyle changes. There will also be a heart-healthy bingo activity that will go over different facts about heart health. Presented by Adventist HealthCare from 1-2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13. Register with course #11525.

Update on Prostate Health

When is a prostate exam necessary? What does an elevated PSA mean? What treatment options are available for prostate cancer? Learn how to maintain a healthy prostate with urologist Mark Rosenblum with this free seminar, 1-2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27. Register with course #11587.

Ongoing Skin Clinic

Held the second Friday of each month. Appointments required. Medicare/insurance will be billed. Call 1-877-345-5300 for appointment, see Betty in the health room, or call her at 240-314-8803.

Memory Café

Free sessions for people living with early-stage memory loss to connect with one another through social events promoting interaction and companionship. Contact Sheila Griffith at 240-844-3608 or sagriffith@alz.org before attending. Bring a bag lunch. Noon-1 p.m. Mondays, Feb. 3 and 24. Register with course #11539 ✚

Get Set for the Suds & Soles 5K

Registration opens Friday, Jan. 31 for the 2020 Suds & Soles 5K.

This year's race, to be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 20, has once again been selected as the Maryland Road Runners Club of America 5K Championship Race. The Montgomery County Road Runners Club and the City of Rockville are teaming up again to present this 5K course on neighborhood roads that begins and ends in Town Center. The

post-race party will feature the opportunity to sample great beverages from local breweries. A KidZone, for children 10 and under, will feature a kids fun run, children's activities and light refreshments.

The race features a tiered pricing structure offering limited slots at reduced prices. Register early and save, and learn more, including about sponsorship opportunities, at www.rockvillemd.gov/sudsandsoles. ✚



FINANCIAL HELP FOR ROCKVILLE SENIORS ... Rockville seniors 60 and older may be eligible for the Program Assistance Fund and Rockville Call N Ride, subsidized programs for qualifying low-income seniors, to help pay for Rockville Senior Center classes and rides around Montgomery County. Visit the Rockville Senior Center or call 240-314-8810 for an application.

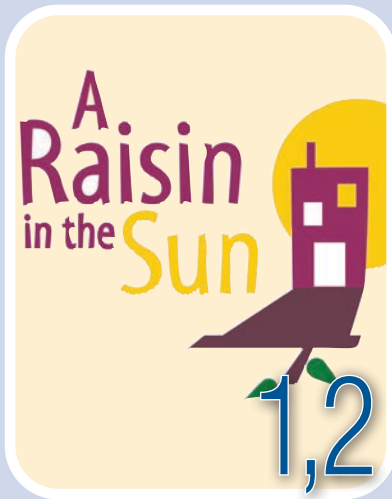
February CALENDAR

CC Croydon Creek Nature Ctr., 852 Avery Rd., 240-314-8770.
GM Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8660.
FSF F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8690.

LP Lincoln Park Community Ctr., 357 Frederick Ave., 240-314-8780.
CH Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., 240-314-5000.
SR Rockville Senior Ctr., 1150 Carnation Dr., 240-314-8800.

FACILITIES LEGEND:

SFC Rockville Swim and Fitness Ctr., 355 Martins Lane, 240-314-8750.
TF Thomas Farm Community Ctr., 700 Falls Grove Dr., 240-314-8840.
TC Twinbrook Comm. Rec. Ctr., 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., 240-314-8830.



1 CRITTERS AND COCOA. Warm up with a cup of cocoa and meet a few Croydon Creek Nature Center critters! Learn their stories and what they can tell us about their wild counterparts. Ages 2 and older. Register for course #12221. \$4 R/\$6 NR. 10-10:30 a.m. **CC**

1 LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION. Annual Lunar New Year celebration of Rockville's Asian cultures, featuring a variety of performances and activities. *See article on page 1.* Free. 1-3 p.m. Rockville High School, 2100 Baltimore Road.

1,2 ROCKVILLE LITTLE THEATRE PRESENTS "A RAISIN IN THE SUN." *See article on page 6.* \$22; \$20 for seniors (62 and older) and students. Performances at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2. **FSF**

2 ROCKVILLE STUDENT JURIED ART SHOW. Opening reception. *See article on page 6.* **GM**

2 EARTH ROCKS ADVENTURE. Naturalists help Webelos complete the necessary requirements for this adventure. All materials provided; pins not supplied by nature center. Held rain or shine, so dress for the weather. For additional information or to register email lfawkslapole@rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8771. \$14 R/\$16 NR. 2-4 p.m. **CC**

3 THE FOUR LEGAL DOCUMENTS EVERY SENIOR SHOULD HAVE. Rachel Seawell Vogel, with Frank, Frank & Scherr, LLC, discusses the importance of having a last will and testament, power of attorney, advance medical directive and living will. Free. 10 a.m.-noon **SR**

3,17 MEMORY CAFÉ. *See article on page 6.* Noon-1 p.m. **SR**

4,18 SELF-ADVOCACY. Self-advocacy is about knowing what your needs are, knowing what could help you address those needs and communicating about your needs to others. Group reviews self-advocacy skills with the goal of feeling more independent and in charge as solutions are found to challenges. Meets first and third Tuesdays. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

5 LITTLE ACORNS: WINTER ADAPTATIONS. Explore nature with your little ones through a variety of play-based activities. Time will be spent outdoors, weather permitting. Adult participation required. Spaces are limited. Advanced registration recommended. Ages 18-36 months. Register for course #12201. \$7 R/\$9 NR. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

5,7,28 FEBREWARY BREW AND BULBS. *See article on page 5.* 5-7 p.m. Feb. 5, Saints Row Brewing, 1211-1213 Taft St.; Feb. 7, Locks Brewing, 12227 Wilkins Ave.; Feb. 28, True Respite Brewing Company, 7301 Calhoun Place #600, Derwood.

7 HEART-TO-HEART FAMILY VALENTINE'S DANCE. Crafts, carnival games and dancing as a DJ spins musical favorites. *See article on page 6.* \$4 per person on the door. No preregistration required. **TC** ♥

7 FEMALE RE-ENACTORS OF DISTINCTION. Female Re-Enactors of Distinction educates and promotes accomplishments of African-American Civil War soldiers and the women who supported their fight for freedom. Register with course #11395; \$3 M/\$5 NM. 10 a.m.-noon **SR**

7,8 ROCKVILLE SCIENCE CENTER PLANETARIUM SHOWS. *See article on page 8.* Each hour from 5-8 p.m. Feb. 7 and noon-4 p.m. Feb. 8. \$7; children 3 and younger, free. RSC storefront center, 36C Maryland Ave.

8 ANIMAL ORIGAMI. Learn the art of paper folding and the fascinating animals that inspired each design. Each participant will make several different animals. Ages 7-10. Register for course #12218. \$6 R/\$8 NR. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

8 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS FORUM. Planning for the 2023 election. *See ad on page 2.* 10 a.m.-noon. **CH**

9 OUTDOOR SCIENCE CLUB: WINTER SURVIVAL. Young scientists investigate a variety of science topics through hands-on activities and time spent exploring the forest preserve. Ages 6-8. Register for course #12216. 1-3 p.m. **CC**

10 TINY TOT CELEBRATION: LITTLE HEARTS VALENTINE'S DAY. Little hearts will enjoy the morning exploring different hands-on stations such as cookie and card decorating, and enjoying other activities. Ages 2-6. *See article on page 6.* Register with course #12106. \$12 R/\$15 NR. 10-11:30 a.m. **TC** ♥

11 TINY TOT CELEBRATION: LITTLE HEARTS VALENTINE'S DAY. Little hearts will enjoy the morning exploring different hands-on stations such as cookie and card decorating, and enjoying other activities. Ages 2-6. *See article on page 6.* Register with course #12107. \$12 R/\$15 NR. 10-11:30 a.m. **TF** ♥

11,25 SENIOR COPING SKILLS. Life skills can often be adapted to different circumstances and stages of life. This group shares the best and most-used coping skills for seniors. Best practices will be presented with an opportunity for discussion. Meets second and fourth Tuesday. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

12 LITTLE HEARTS VALENTINES AT LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY CENTER. Little hearts will enjoy the morning exploring different hands-on stations such as cookie and card decorating, and enjoying other activities. *See article on page 6.* Ages 2-6. Register with course #12104. \$12 R/\$15 NR. 10-11:30 a.m. **LP** ♥

13 NATURE TOTS: WOODPECKERS. Discover the wonders of nature with your child. Each session, a naturalist delves into a different nature topic through play, crafts, stories and hikes. Dress for the weather. Adult participation required. Spaces are limited. Ages 2-5. Register for course #12208. \$8 R/\$10 NR. 10-11:30 a.m. **CC**

13,27 GRATITUDE. A psychoeducational group and discussion on conducting a life with a focus on gratitude. Meets second and fourth Thursdays. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

13 GLENVIEW MANSION & PEERLESS ROCKVILLE SPEAKER SERIES. "Lincoln Park: A Celebration of Community," presented by Peerless Rockville and Yvette Yeboah-Schools, supervisor of Lincoln Park Community Center. Free. 7-8 p.m. **GM**

15 LITTLE ACORNS: ICE AND SNOW. Explore nature with your little ones through a variety of play-based activities. Time will be spent outdoors, weather permitting. Adult participation required. Spaces are limited. Advanced registration recommended. Ages 18-36 months. Register for course #12202. \$7 R/\$9 NR. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

15 ROCKVILLE LANTERN FESTIVAL. Performances, food, interactive lantern craft activities and cultural displays. Organized by the Rockville Sister City Corporation with WQER-LP 96.7 FM and Chinese Culture Institute. Find tickets at bit.ly/RkvLantern2020. Free. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. **FSF**

17 CITY HALL CLOSED for Presidents Day. *See article on page 1.* **CH**

17 ADVENTURE DAY. An adventure on your day off school. Each program will consist of an offsite field trip and time spent enjoying games and activities at Thomas Farm Community Center. An email with additional information regarding the trip will be sent to participants prior to the program. \$30 R/\$35 NR. 9-3 p.m. **TF**

19 THURGOOD MARSHALL: CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER. A trail-blazing civil rights victory in Montgomery County led to civil-rights icon Thurgood Marshall delivering an early blow to school segregation in Montgomery County. Gaining equal pay for the county's African-American teachers in 1937 is a little-known legal case often seen as the first step in Marshall's successful drive to have segregation declared unconstitutional. PowerPoint presentation by Ralph Buglass of the Montgomery Co. Speakers Bureau. Register for course #11630; \$6 M/\$8 NM. 10-11:30 a.m. **SR**

6,20 WOMEN LIVING ALONE SUPPORT GROUP. A long-standing open-enrollment support group where members support each other through listening, tips, suggestions and advice. Meets first and third Thursdays. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

21,22,23,28,29 VICTORIAN LYRIC OPERA PRESENTS: "THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE." *See article on page 6.* Performances at 8 p.m. Feb. 21, 22, 28, 29; and at 2 p.m. Feb. 23 and March 1. Tickets cost \$28; \$24 for seniors 65 and older; and \$20 for students. **FSF**

22 NATURE TOTS: DEER. Discover the wonders of nature with your child. Each session, a naturalist delves into a different nature topic through nature play, crafts, stories and hikes. Dress for the weather. Adult participation required. Spaces are limited. Ages 2-5 years. Register for course #12209. \$8 R/\$10 NR. 10-11:30 a.m. **CC**

23 HEROES OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD AROUND WASHINGTON, D.C. Peerless Rockville marks Black History Month. Free. *See article on page 4.* 1-2 p.m. Red Brick Courthouse, 29 Courthouse Square.

23 NATURE LAB: SNOW SCIENCE. Explore nature inside and out with engaging hands-on and minds-on experiments and adventures. Time will be spent indoors and outdoors so dress for the weather. Ages 9-11 years. Register for course #12205. \$8 R/\$10 NR. 3-4 p.m. **CC**

26 NAVIGATING TRANSITIONS FOR YOUR LOVED ONE'S CARE. Join Care Patrol for a workshop featuring discussing local resources, housing and care options. Attendees will learn important differences in housing and care options in the area; how memory care differs from other senior care options; tips for families looking for senior care; guidance on touring senior care facilities; and information on various private, veterans and government programs. Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

28 ASK THE REALTOR: DOWNSIZING AND PRICING MY HOUSE TO SELL. Strategies on downsizing and pricing your house to sell in today's market as is versus repaired value. Free. 10-11:30 a.m. **SR**

29 STOLEN: THE STORY OF FREE AFRICAN AMERICANS KIDNAPPED INTO SLAVERY. Peerless Rockville marks Black History Month. Free. *See article on page 4.* 2-3:30 p.m. Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave.

R = Residents • NR = Nonresidents • MEM = Member • NM = Nonmember

FOR MORE INFO AND UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTINGS: WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/CALENDAR.ASPX

Spring Sports — Now Registering

Registration for youth and adult sports is now open.

Adult sports during the spring are: men's softball; co-rec softball; co-rec basketball; co-rec volleyball (indoor and beach); and co-rec soccer. Game nights vary.

Registration deadlines for adult league players and teams are in late March.

Youth sports for spring are youth coach-pitch baseball, T-ball, soccer, and track and field. Practices for youth track and field begin at the end of March, with meets beginning in mid-April. Practices for youth soccer, T-ball, and coach-pitch baseball begin in early April, with games beginning mid-April.

The registration deadline is Thursday, March 5, with a discount for early bird registration until Friday, Feb. 28. Coaches are needed for teams in spring youth sports leagues. If you're interested in taking part, contact sports@rockvillemd.gov.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/sports for league details and registration information or call 240-314-8620.

Test Your Green Thumb with a Rockville Garden Plot

The City of Rockville has 159 garden plots, approximately 25-by-25 feet, available for rent at Woottons Mill Park for growing food and other plants.

The cost is \$80 per plot for nonresidents; Rockville residents pay \$62.50 per plot. Registration for the garden plot program is now open. The season runs April 1-Nov. 15.

The city provides water spigots and mulch; gardeners are responsible for fencing, weed barriers, hoses, tools and other gardening supplies.

Registration forms can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/gardenplots. Call the Rockville Civic Center's main office number, 240-314-8660, for more information.

Benefits of Sponsoring a Special Event

With more than 150,000 people expected to attend Rockville's special events in 2020, sponsorship is a great way for businesses to get the word out and connect with potential customers in the Rockville area.

Significant annual events include the Memorial Day weekend music festival, Hometown Holidays; Lunar New Year; the Rockville Antique and Classic Car Show; and the German-themed Rocktoberfest.

Sponsors receive promotional opportunities, such as onsite booths, logos on materials, social-media postings and more, depending on level of support.

To see Rockville's annual events and download a sponsorship packet, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/sponsorship email Development and Marketing Manager Elisabeth Deal at elisdeal@rockvillemd.gov.

Peerless Rockville

continued on pg. 4...

Story of Free African Americans Kidnapped Into Slavery" are presented in association with Peerless Rockville's new exhibit, "Forging Freedom: Endurance, Escape, and Rockville's Underground Railroad," which features the brave fugitives who fled slavery in Rockville, the abolitionist network that helped and the endurance of the enslaved community. The exhibit is open 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday, in the historic courthouse.



Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

Reach out to Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito at rdispirito@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8102.

Expanded Locker Rooms, Upgraded Lobby Open at Swim and Fitness Center

Visitors to the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center can now walk through an inviting, brand-new lobby and use larger, modernized indoor-pool locker rooms, as well as other improved amenities, before they hit the water.

The newly renovated lobby and lockers rooms were made available to customers in late January, but renovation work at the swim and fitness center isn't over quite yet.

Customers can expect to see construction continue in and around the facility over the next few months. As such, the section of the indoor facility's parking lot that is furthest from Martins Lane will be closed for construction work.

Progress towards the project's completion continues with exterior work that includes storm-water management, landscaping, the parking lot and ancillary areas of the indoor complex. Work on the project was sequenced to minimize



disruptions to customers and allow use of the locker rooms and lobby as soon as possible.

To commemorate the renovations, a dedication ceremony with the Mayor and Council will be scheduled to take place sometime this winter. For details, once the date for the dedication is finalized, check the calendar at www.rockvillemd.gov or sign up for the center's email updates at www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter.

For more information about the renovations, email swimcenter@rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8750. ✚

Rockville's Generosity on Display During 2019 Holiday Drive

Generous contributions from more than 240 individuals, businesses, and community organizations resulted in \$93,149 of food, cash, toys and gift cards for the 2019 Rockville Holiday Drive.

These contributions, and the hard work of many volunteers, enabled the city to:

- Distribute Thanksgiving food baskets and grocery store gift cards to more than 497 Rockville households.
- Treat 96 Rockville seniors to a Thanksgiving dinner.
- Provide 306 teens with a gift card to a local retailer.
- Provide 182 seniors and households without chil-

dren a gift card to a local grocery store.

- Operate the city's annual toy shop, providing over 1,686 toys, books, and games to more than 562 children under age 12 (an estimated two toys and book for each child).
- Matched 62 Rockville families — a total of 246 individuals — with sponsors who provided gifts tailored to each family's specific needs through the family sponsorship program.

Monetary donations are accepted for the Holiday Drive year 'round. For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/holidaydrive. ✚

Rockville Science Center Storefront Opens with Eyes on the Skies

The Rockville Science Center is now in Rockville Town Center. The storefront center is located at 36C Maryland Ave., across from the Rockville Town Square Plaza ice rink and Rockville Memorial Library, in Rockville Town Square.

The storefront center's first major event will be an opportunity to experience a universe of stories and see the stars with a two-day series of planetarium shows. The center will host a large inflatable planetarium that will depict winter's evening sky, including prominent constellations, the movement of the stars, moon and planets, and significant astronomical events.

The shows, at 5, 6, 7 and

8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7 and noon, 1, 2, 3 and 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, are for all ages. Tickets are \$7. Free admission for children under 3. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. For tickets, visit the Rockville Science Center on Facebook or bit.ly/RSCSkyTonight.

In the weeks ahead, the storefront center will host project-based programs for after-school activities, camps, scout merit badges and home schools; additional special events featuring unique speakers, adult science nights and parties; and team activities. Learn more at www.rockvillesciencecenter.org. ✚

New Ethics Rules

continued from pg. 3...

The Ethics Commission is required to review financial disclosure statements to ensure they are complete and to request an amended report if any deficiencies or omissions are found. The commission will also be required to conduct similar reviews for lobbyists, including reviewing lobbying registrations and financial dis-

closure reports.

The changes also reduce the value of gifts — from \$25 to \$20 — that certain employees and officials must report in disclosure statements.

For video of the Mayor and Council discussion and more information about the revised ordinance, find the Jan. 6 meeting listing at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Strategy for Safer Streets

continued from pg. 1...

Meanwhile, the Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee, Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee and the city's Traffic and Transportation Commission are working on pedestrian and bicycling safety strategies, including advocating for the city's Vision Zero plan. The plan's goal is to eliminate traffic-related deaths and serious injuries by 2030 through improved road design, traffic law enforcement and education. A draft of the plan is

expected to go before the Mayor and Council this spring.

Information about the commission and committees can be found under the "City Government" tab at www.rockvillemd.gov. The bottom of the website also includes a "Report a Concern" button for reporting non-emergency pedestrian or bicycling safety issues.

For more information about the city's efforts, contact Alyssa Roff, the city's pedestrian and bicycle coordinator, at aroff@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8527. ✚



Get Into It

City Manager: Rob DiSpirito
Deputy City Manager: Jennifer Kimball
Director of Communication: Marylou Berg
Public Information Specialists: Cliff Cumber, Sean Sedam

Web and Digital Manager: Tatum B. Walker
Graphics and Printing: Eric Ferrell, Erin Fincher, Lori Russler
Rockville II: Hagop Balekjian, Craig Buchanan, Kathy Dantzler, Fran Panzo

Rockville Reports is the official publication of the City of Rockville, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. It is delivered to all homes and businesses within Rockville's city limits. Any individuals with disabilities who would like to receive the information in this publication in another form may contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at 240-314-8100; TTY 240-314-8137. Have an idea for "Rockville Reports"? Email pio@rockvillemd.gov.



BACK IN THE DAY ... An "auspicious event" took place on May 25, 1873 — for the first time, a regular service steam engine began in Rockville, transporting passengers for a 45-minute journey along the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad line to Washington, D.C. The cost for a ticket? Sixty cents.